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Friday 22 July 2005 @ 15:01:17

e13 DRS Chain Guide: Long Term Test

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We get so much stuff to test that not all of it can fit in the mag. And some of the stuff we get doesn't quite sit well with the more XC slant of the mag. So we're going to start doing more online product reviews. And here's the first in the series...



e13 DRS Chain Guide

Price: £109.99

From: Silverfish www.silverfish-uk.com

Tested: 6 months

Some of you may recognise this chain device from the Alps bike test in the current issue of Singletrack (it was on the Turner Six Pack, as these photographs reveal). But as well as giving it a thorough workout over in Morzine for a week we have also been regularly using a DRS (Dual Ring Security) on one of own bikes for the past few months. The riding we've been doing in the UK with the DRS has encompassed a huge variety of different disciplines; from all day in the saddle XC epics to saddle-down arse-on-the-rear-tyre "freeride-y" playtimes. We opted to test the DRS as it still allows for the use of two chainrings (granny and middle) and we feel this is by far the most versatile setup for your average rider.

There's two main parts to the DRS: a thick polycarbonate plastic 'Supercharger' bash guard (available in black as well as clear) and one chain retention arm that sits behind and slightly below the chainrings. The idea of making the bash guard from very thick plastic (as opposed to the more common thinner metal ones) is to prevent the guard from digging in as it makes contact with logs/rocks/fallen-comrades as you pass over them. The fitting is fairly straight forward (using the nicely plain english instructions)

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and everything you need is supplied (you will need a bottom bracket that has flanged cups or a frame with ISCG mounts though).

The main bike we tested the DRS on was a older style Santa Cruz Heckler which has a low-ish bottom height and has been the victim of numerous bent chainrings in the past as its less-than-graceful pilot stumbled his way over logs and down (and up) steps. With the outer chainring replaced by the 'Supercharger' guard we still grounded out with roughly the same frequency (the '36T' guard we had was no smaller than an outer chainring) but instead of the bike coming to an immediate halt (and our privates slamming into the stem) there was an audible hollow-sounding knock and... on we went. Despite some pretty harsh whacks over the last few months the ring only shows a few surface scuff marks. Really quite impressively ace.

For those folks with low-BB bikes plagued by grounding-out - who don't want to buy a less-balanced high-BB bike - the 'Supercharger' bash guard is brilliant and will open up a lot more opportunities for more 'interesting' line choices. It is available separately for around £28.00 and comes highly recommended by us.

The retention 'arm' of the device was pretty much forgotten about once installed. Which is recommendation enough in itself! Unlike a lot of retention devices the DRS' was very quiet and smooth feeling. You could just about hear it working and feel a tiny bit of extra resistance if you concentrated during duller moments of a ride but it was really very minimal and by far the best of any chain device we've previously encountered. The two-tier rubbery roller kept the chain pulled close in both chainrings and didn't seem to impinge on the smoothness of shifting either. We never once experienced a dropped chain during the test no matter what tank-slappy rockeries we blundered down, neither did we have to readjust any part of the DRS. Again, impressive stuff.

About the only negative thing we can say about the DRS is that it ain't particularly cheap (most top-level chain devices are around the same price though) but it is a brilliantly designed product that must have taken a fair of R+D and the finished item is very well made so we'll forgive the price tag. The 'Supercharger' bash guard is pretty good value though considering the competition. The DRS is available in 4- and 5-arm spider options and with 36T- or 40T-sized 'Supercharger' bash guards. There is a standard single ring device (the 'SRS') and a super-burly trials/DH version as well (the 'STS').



Rear view



Underside view

Overall: the best chain retention device and bash guard combo currently available.

www.e13components.com



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Nicely done..

by: **Jakester2** on: Friday 22 July 2005 @ 15:21:06 | <http://www.staceymiller.co.uk>

I've got one of these, and it's been superb. The only problem I've experienced is the chain occasionally dropping off the side of the granny, but this is probably due to shonky front mech setup and the absurdly large gap between a 22t ring and a 38t ring.

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RE:Are you sure you followed the instructions

by: **Gaylord** on: Friday 22 July 2005 @ 16:26:05

Edited by: Gaylord

The instructions are indeed easy to follow, however your underside picture looks like you have been unable to follow them!!

The outer side of the roller mechanism should line up with the outer surface of the bash plate. Check out the chainline yours makes as it goes through the roller indicating the roller is too far inboard for the rings, an extra plate or two is needed behind the roller ; -)

I do agree that is the best out there for two rings, mine has been faultless.

chris

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RE:Are you sure you followed the instructions

by: **Ben_Haworth** on: Friday 22 July 2005 @ 16:36:23 | <http://www.singletrackworld.com/trade/>

Well spotted! These pics are of the DRS we had on the Turner SixPack (set up by someone else). We did set up the DRS on our Heckler correctly (but didn't have any decent pics of it!) :o)

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RE:Are you sure you followed the instructions

by: **Gaylord** on: Saturday 23 July 2005 @ 00:15:46

keen eye for detail and all that.....

[[Reply](#)]

resistance

by: **spw3** on: Monday 25 July 2005 @ 09:00:45

I've had one for 2 months and agree it works very well although I think you can notice the chain resistance from the roller. But its only a 2 minute job to take the roller off for XC rides.

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drs

by: [jedi](#) on: Monday 25 July 2005 @ 18:58:42 | <http://tonysphotos.fotopic.net>

i've used one(with out the fugly bash guard)for a year now and it's bombproof in my opinion.chainringed a big gap and it never moved/bent on impact ,which was nice

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thick question

by: [jedimonkey](#) on: Thursday 28 July 2005 @ 17:40:14

would this fit on an Hollow Tech 2 type BB without the IS mounts on the frame? is that what you mean about the flanged bb?

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